

Easy Conservation Land Walks in Stow

Prepared by the Stow Conservation Commission

1. Track Road - Track Road is a scenic, flat walk along the Assabet River in Stow. This wide dirt and gravel roadway feels remote and secluded and abuts the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. Vehicles, cyclists, walkers and joggers use the road more on weekends. Depending on the time of the year it sometimes has wet or muddy spots. The road also provides vehicular access to the privately owned Crow Island, where an ultralight flying club has a landing strip.

Parking is either at the southwest end of Track Road along the edge of Sudbury Road by the Sudbury Road Bridge (over the Assabet River) or at



the northeast end of Track Road in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's parking lot at the end of White Pond Road (off Great Road near the Maynard Town Line). Track Road is ~1.9 miles, making an end to end round trip walk nearly four miles.

2. Captain Sargent Garden Loop – Tuttle Lane between Red Acre and South Acton – This is a relatively level dirt, gravel and grassed pathway around the annual and perennial community gardens at the Town's Captain Sargent Conservation Area. Park on the side of Tuttle Lane in the pull off on the opposite side of the road just past the gardens. Please do not park on the garden road. The road around the gardens makes a nice figure eight that can be walked



once or multiple times and is particularly enjoyable in spring and summer when the gardens are under cultivation. One trip around both loops is ~ 0.5 mile. There are several picnic tables for resting or enjoying a snack. Hand pumps provide water for the gardens, but is not suitable for drinking.

3. Town Forest Red Trail – While there are many miles of trails at Town Forest, the red trail provides a relatively easy out and back walk. The initial portion of the trail from the parking lot to the bridge of Elizabeth Brook is the steepest and most difficult area, then the trail levels out. To get to the red trail walk downhill from the parking lot to the bridge. Bear right just after the bridge and stay on the blue, and then the red trail which runs parallel to the Assabet River. It is ~0.5 miles to the property line after which you must turn around and retrace your steps. Many people walk dogs off-leash at Town Forest, so this is not a good place to walk if you are fearful of dogs or worry about being knocked over. The Town Forest Parking Lot is at the end of Bradley Lane off Great Road just west of Lower Village. The area is managed by the Stow Conservation Commission.

4. Stow Community Park – The park, managed by the Stow Recreation Department, has a crushed stone perimeter trail that offers easy walking around the ballfields, and also has several exercise stations. There is a shelter at the park. The trail loop is approximately 0.3 miles. Park in the lot on Old Bolton Road just off Great Road. The area is open and sunny and can be busy when ballfields are in use.

5. Delaney Wildlife Management Area – This area, managed by the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, is accessed via a parking lot on Harvard Rd. A wide gravel trail provides easy walking across the top of a flood control berm, offering views of Delaney Pond and open fields. It is ~ 0.3 miles from the parking lot to the end of the flood control berm, making a round trip a bit more than half a mile. A network of more rustic trails extends beyond this point into fields



and woodlands. Also easily accessible from the parking lot are quiet and relatively flat walking on roads in Harvard Acres, particularly on Kirkland and Conant Drives. Please use caution crossing or walking along Harvard Road.

6. Pine Bluffs – Pine Bluffs is the Lake Boon Town Beach area, just off Sudbury Road, and managed by the Recreation Department. There is a small parking area and easy walking along the top of the bluff as well as a covered pavilion and a deck overlooking the lake.

7. Marble Hill – Marble Hill is located behind the Pompo Community Center, and accessed via the parking lot on Great Road. Follow the path to the back field and enter the woods at the base of the hill. Although portions of Marble Hill are steep and offer challenging hikes, the yellow trail to the white trail offer the easiest walking. You can retrace your steps by circling the far side of the grassed field. The area is managed by the Stow Conservation Commission.

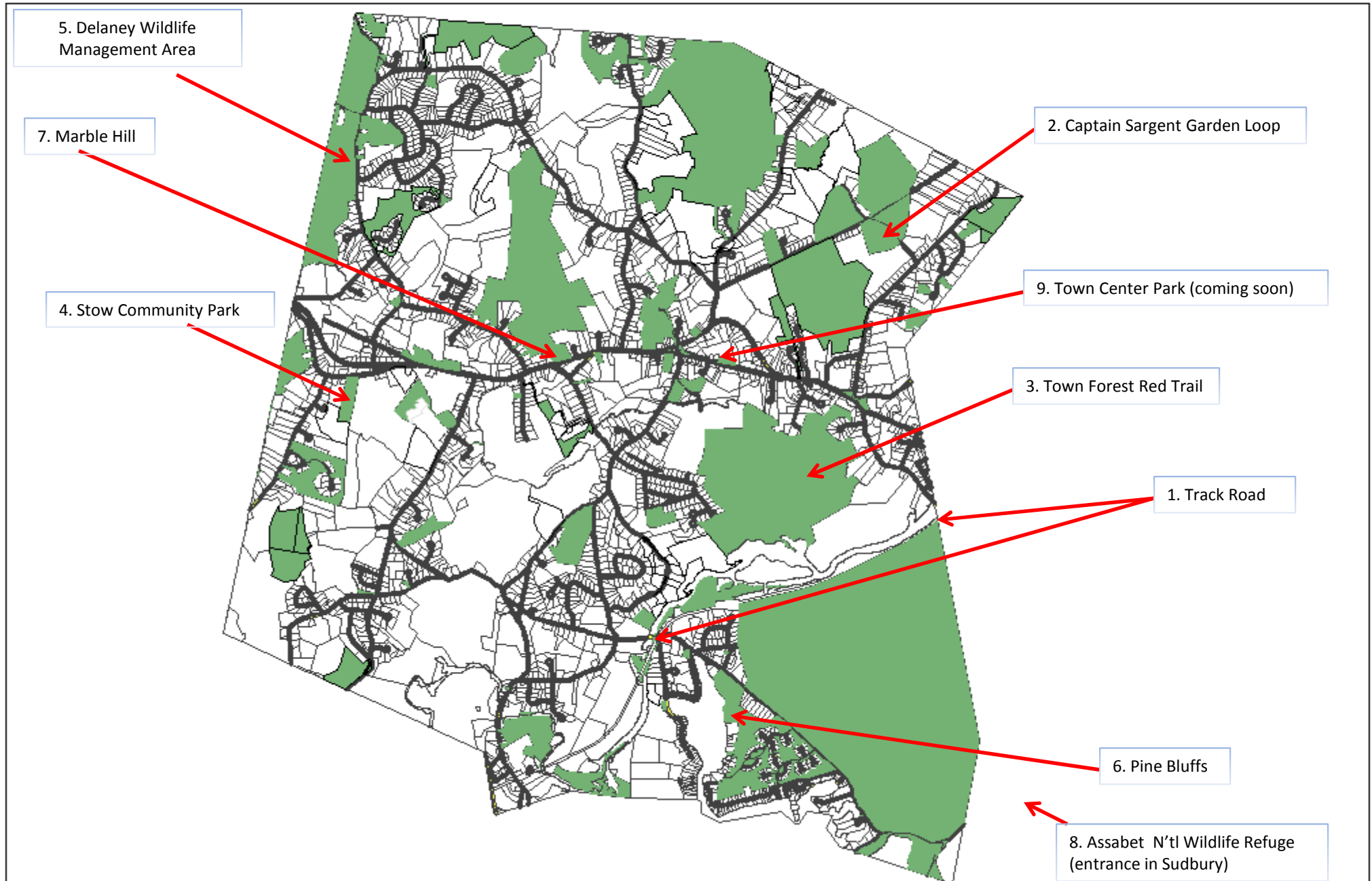
8. Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, reached from the Visitor Center off Hudson Road in Sudbury (just over the town line) offers 12 miles of trails for visitors, a dedicated parking lot and exhibits in the accessible nature center (Fri-Sun). Easiest walking is available paralleling Winterberry Way on a paved accessible trail which offers views of Puffer Pond (1.5 miles), and there is a section of Harry's Way (1.8 miles) that provides an accessible route from the Visitor Center to one of the old ammunition bunkers. Additional accessible trails are planned at the Refuge, managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

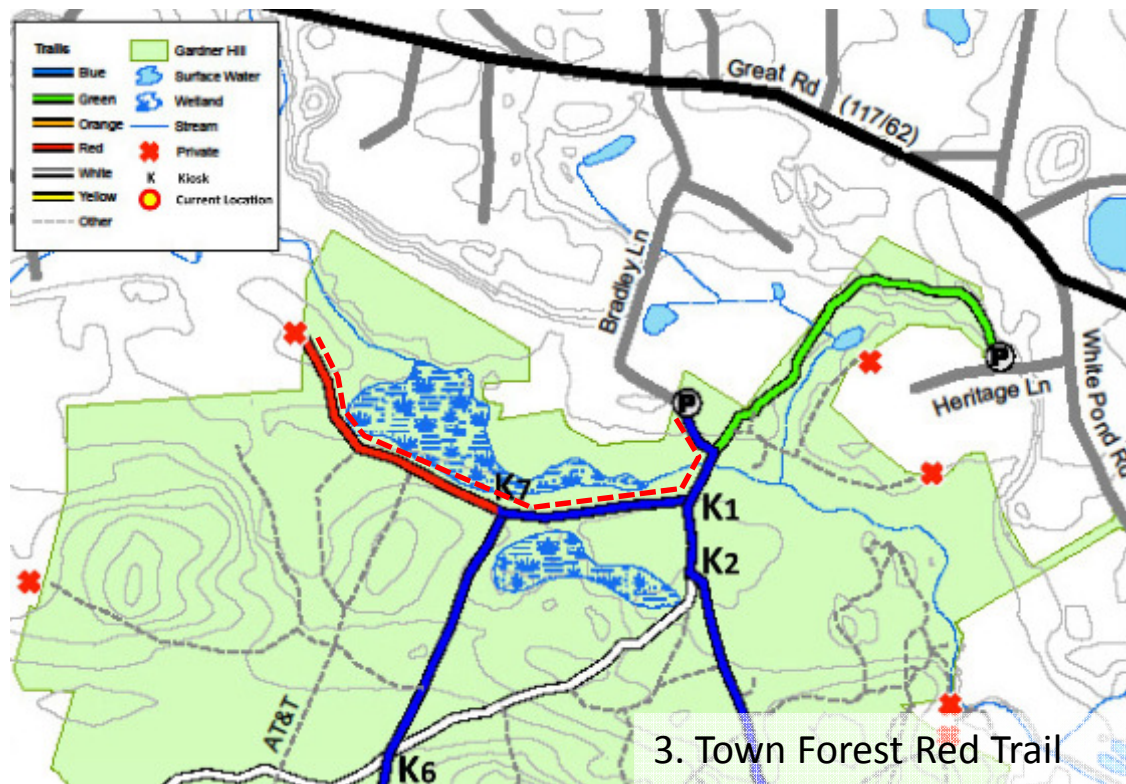
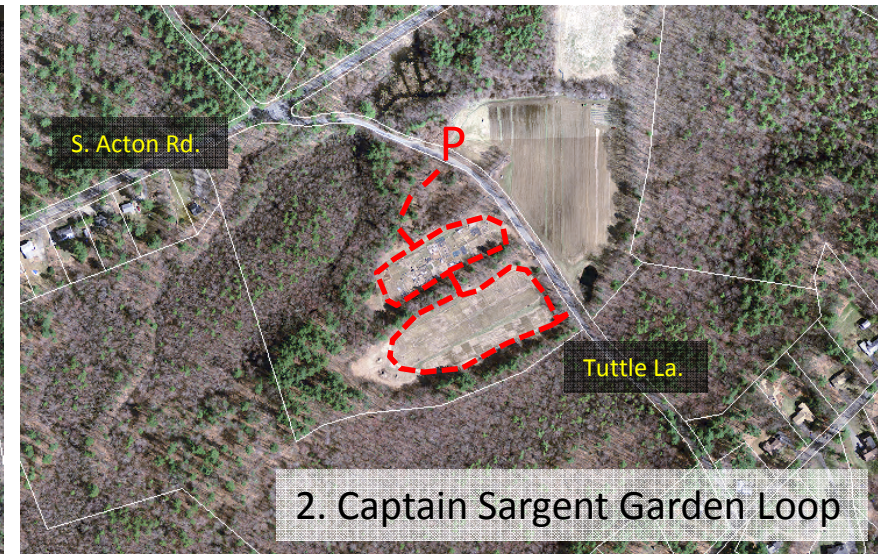
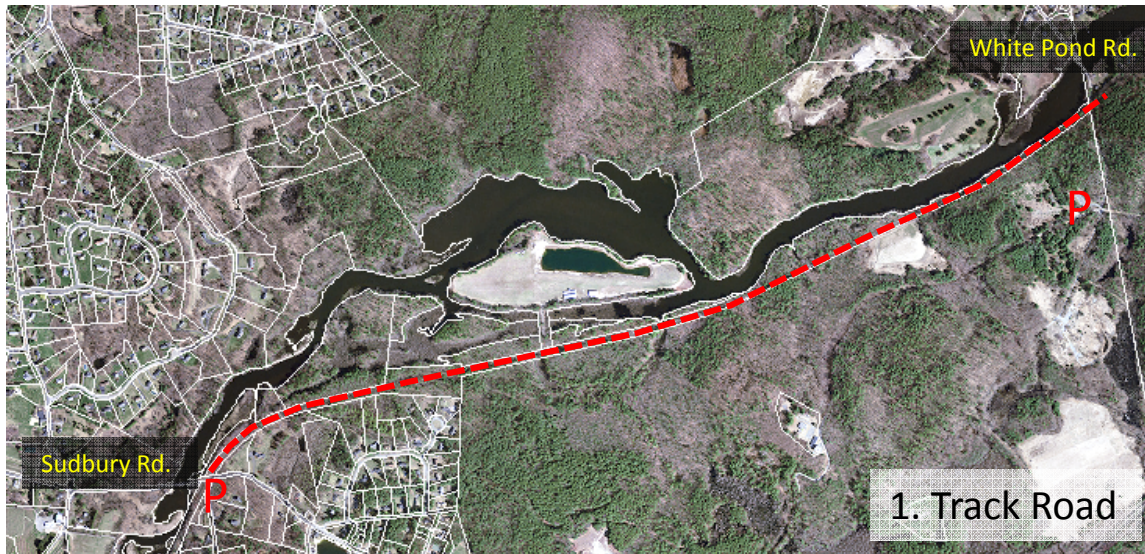


9. Town Center Park (Coming Soon!) - Located in the center of Stow adjacent to Union Church, the town is readying a small four acre property to be a park with benches, picnic tables, accessible trails and play areas overlooking Minister's Pond. Stay tuned! A small parking area will provide access, and trails will also connect to the sidewalk along Great Rd.

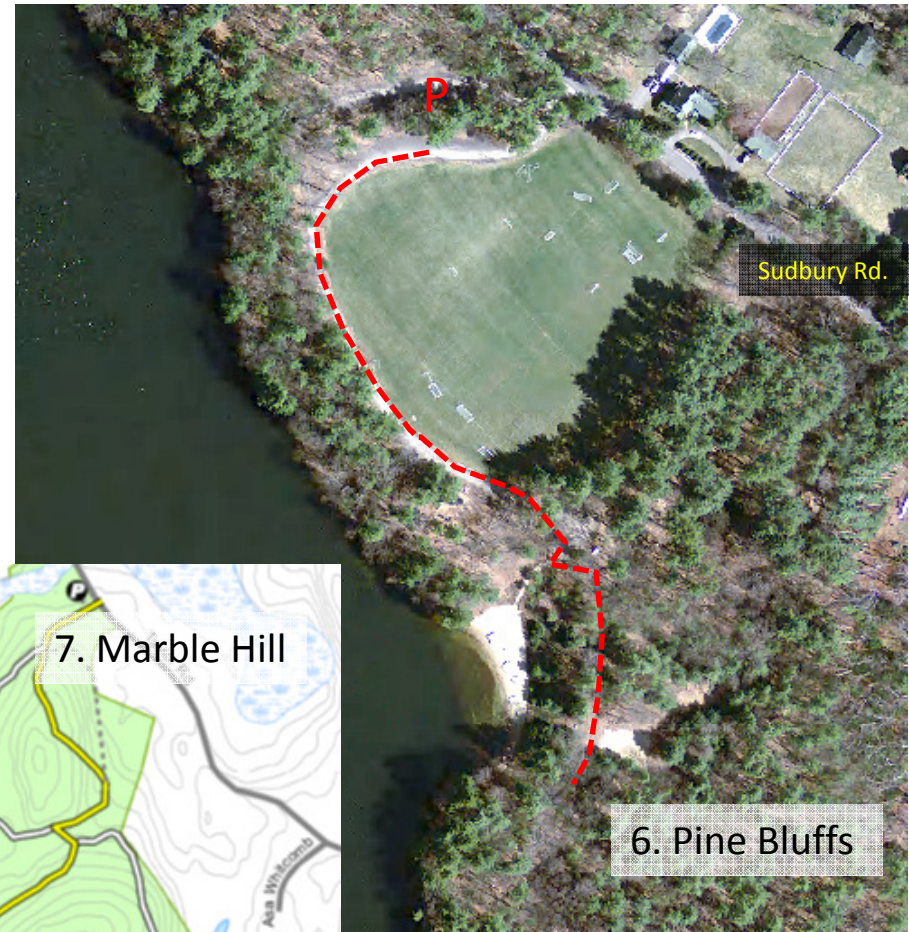
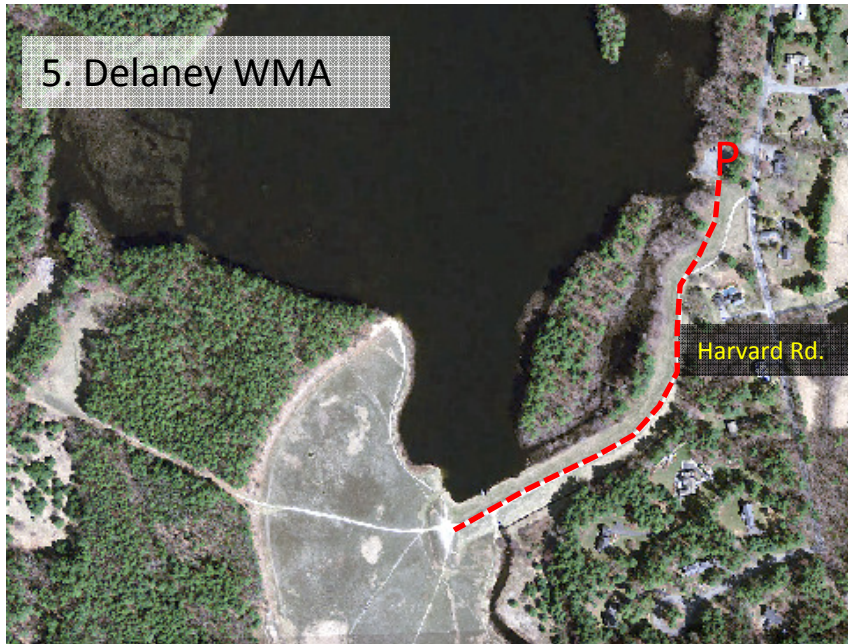
10. Tell us your favorites! Report additional trails that you enjoy walking to the Stow Conservation Commission at conservation@stow-ma.gov. They may make the next edition!

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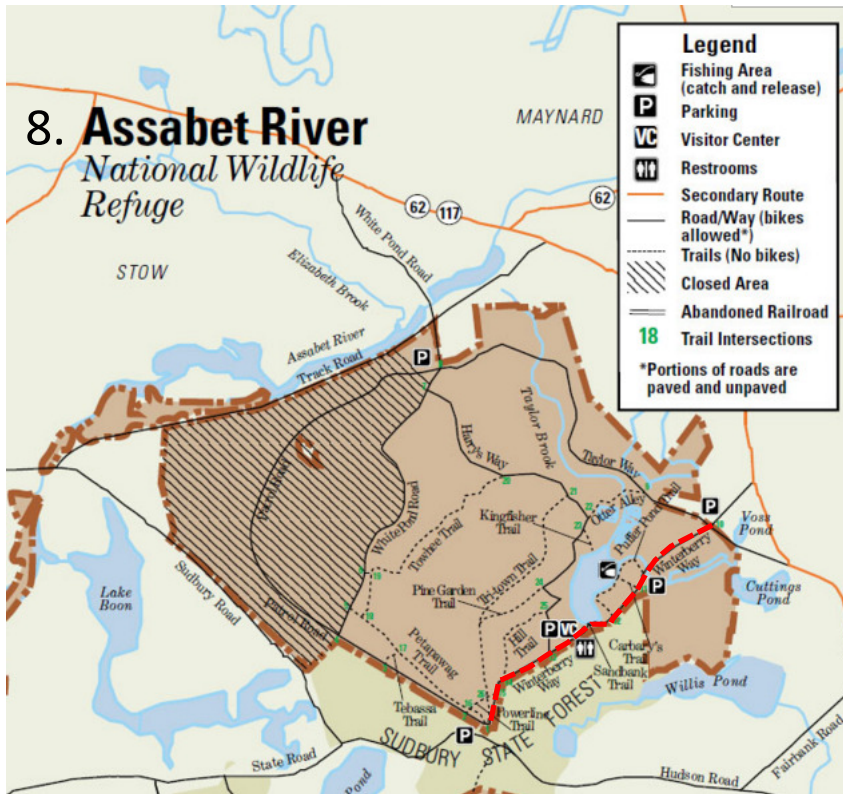




5. Delaney WMA



8. Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge



7. Marble Hill

